

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00182 102039Z

51

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 FBO-02 SCCT-01 AID-05

CCO-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NIC-01 NSC-05 SP-02

OC-05 OPR-01 PA-01 USSS-00 PRS-01 SCA-01 A-01 OMB-01

SS-15 SY-04 OCL-00 OES-03 HEW-02 IO-10 SR-02 ORM-01

FDRE-00 MED-02 /101 W
----- 097877

O 101700Z FEB 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3156

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA IMMEDIATE

COMNAVTELCOM IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0182

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, PINR, ET

SUBJECT: ERITREAN DEVELOPMENTS

1. TODAY I EYEBALLED CITY AND ENVIRONS, INCLUDING ALL KAGNEW TRACTS. CITY QUIET; MORE PEOPLE THAN IN PAST WEEK ON STREETS; SOME VEGETABLES, GRAIN, AND MEAT AVAILABLE IN MARKETS. SHOPS LARGELY CLOSED. NO ARMY SEEN EXCEPT FOR OCCASIONAL JEEP WITH

PAGE 2 RUEOIAA0028 C O N F I D E N T I A L
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00182 102039Z

MOUNTED 50 CAL. MACHINE GUN. COMMANDO POLICE MUCH IN EVIDENCE.

POPULACE GENERALLY GRINNED AND WAVED AT SIGHT OF MY FLAG.

2. STARTING ABOUT 1215 PM, EXPLOSIONS BELIEVED TO BE FROM ARTILLERY FIRE, SEEN AND HEARD OUTSIDE OF TOWN IN VICINITY KEREN ROAD BY OBSERVERS AT TRACTS B AND TX. 5:00 PM, AIRCRAFT SEEN AND SOUND OF EXPLOSIONS, SUGGESTED BOMBING.

3. A LOCAL SOURCE CALLED CONS OFF AND STATED THAT ONE ETHIOPIAN AIR FORCE AIRCRAFT SHOT DOWN NORTH OF ASMARA AT ABOUT 5:00 PM. HE ALSO SAID THERE NOW RUMBLINGS OF MUTINY AMONG ENLISTED MEN OF ETHIOPIAN ARMY. STATED FURTHER, INSURGENTS HAVE DECLARED 48 HR CEASEFIRE, DURING WHICH TIME POPULACE COULD GET FOOD SUPPLIES AND GIVE THE PMAC OPPORTUNITY TO NEGOTIATE RECOGNITION OF ELF. IF RECOGNITION NOT FORTHCOMING, ELF WILL ATTACK STRATEGIC POINTS IN ASMARA BEGINNING 12 FEB, SUCH AS AIRPORT AND ETHI MILITARY BASES, INCLUDING TRACT E. SOURCE STATES THAT ELF PROVIDE MEDICAL TREATMENT TO WOUNDED ETH SOLDIERS BEFORE RELEASING THEM. THIS HAS DEMORALIZED ETH ARMY. THIS REPORT IS CONFIRMED BY OTHER SOURCES INCLUDING SUDANESE CONGEN.

4. MEMBER OF COMMITTEE OF 38 REPORTS THAT ETH GOVT REQUESTED THEIR AID IN RESTORATION OF UTILITIES TO ASMARA AND DID NOT MENTION

PAGE 3 RUEOIAA0028 C O N F I D E N T I A L

SUBSTANTIVE PEACE NEGOTIATIONS. AN ERITREAN DOCTOR REPORTS FIGHTING IN AGORDAT IN THE WESTERN LOWLANDS AND THE SAHEL DISTRICT NE OF ASMARA.

HE ALSO REPORTS A MEASLES EPIDEMIC IN ONE OF THE REFUGEE CAMPS.

5. FORMER POLICE OFFICER WHO HAS DEFECTED TO ELF TODAY TOLD MEMBER CONGEN THAT ELF CASUALTIES TO DATE TOTAL 57 WHILE ARMY LOST SOME 5,000 KILLED, WOUNDED, AND MISSING. ABOUT 900 SAID TO BE KILLED OR WOUNDED. BALANCE REPRESENTS MISSING, INCLUDING MANY DEFECTORS, WITH ERITREAN WIVES AND CHILDREN, WHO HAVE GONE OVER TO OTHER SIDE RATHER THAN FIGHT ERITREANS. THIS SOURCE ALSO MENTIONED 48 HR. CEASEFIRE DECLARED BY ELF TO PERMIT FOODSTUFFS TO ENTER CITY, FOLLOWING WHICH AIRPORT AND ETH ARMY PORTION TRACT E WOULD BE HIT. 2ND DIV CHIEF OF STAFF, INCIDENTALLY, TOLD MAAG ADVISOR TODAY, THAT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ASMARA 00182 102039Z

ARMY HAS NOT DECLARED OR AGREED TO ANY CEASEFIRE.

6. SAME ELF SOURCE STATED ARMY HAS ONLY 52 HRS OF FUEL LEFT FOR VEHICLES AT CURRENT RATE OF USE. ALSO STATED THAT ATTACKS ON SEDAO POWER PLANT AND ON TRACTS E & B NECESSARY, AS THEY MUST DESTROY FUEL.

7 CONGEN WILL REPORT FURTHER ON FUEL AND POWER SITUATION.

SHERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COMBAT OPERATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00182
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750048-0388
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750258/aaaacajs.tel
Line Count: 116
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 JUN 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 NOV 2003 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ERITREAN DEVELOPMENTS
TAGS: PINS, PINR, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006